(10)

A LETTER FROM A Private Gentleman TO AN Engliſh Peer.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

My Lord,

IN Obedience to your Lordſhips Commands, I have carefully read over and conſider'd the Articles of Union between *England* and *Scotland*, which, I think, are compleat; and being ratified in the moſt ſolemn manner for eſtabliſhing an intire and everlaſting Union between the two Nations, are to be eſteem'd Sacred and Inviolable, and preſerv'd as

the fix'd Foundation upon which the Kingdom of *Great-Britain* is eſtabliſh d.

It's not to be expect d that a Deſign of ſo high a Nature and vaſt Conſequences, can be contriv'd without ſome preſ nt Inconveniencies; ſome particular Perſons may receive Prejudice while others reap an equal Benefit: But the Advantages which the Nation will enjoy by this Treaty of Union, if religiouſly obſerv'd, and the Abyſs of Confuſion and Miſery into which the Violation thereof may bring us, are Conſiderations which infinitely ſurpaſs our preſent view; the Heart of our Gracious Queen has been ſet upon this Union, and her Majeſties, as well as the Honour of the Nation, are ſo deeply engag'd, that nothing can be brought in Ballance.

The noble Senators of *Scotland*, who encompaſs'd with extream Difficulties and Dangers, have ſo happily accompliſh'd this Glorious Deſign, ought never to be again expos'd; and there are others whoſe Safety depends very much upon their Sincerity in this Matter: And therefore I'm very ſorry to hear People already complain of Encroachments.

There's a Bill ſent from the Commons to the Lords, in which there are ſeveral Particulars that 'tis hop'd can't abide the Examination and Tryal of that Auguſt Aſſembly, where the moſt impartial Juſtice directs all Debates and Determinations; the penetrating Wiſdom of our noble Patriots will ſoon diſcern the Diſaffection and Malice of ſome, and Partiality of others, by which they are puſh'd to the moſt improper Remedies, which, inſtead of curing, do often multiply Diſtempers, and while they ſeem

to

to avoid one pretended Evil, fall into innumerable real Dangers; who, out of Envy or blind Zeal, cry out of Ruin and Deſtruction, when there is no hazard: And that they may the better bring Deſtruction upon others, ſet up Complaints and draw in ſimple People to ſign unknown Petitions, and under the Pretence of their mighty Care of the Publick Good, and her Majeſties Revenue, lay Schemes, whereby to accompliſh their particular Deſigns.

Your Lordſhip will eaſily perceive the Influence which the Pretences of theſe clamorous Petitioners and their Abettors have upon others, who may have any dependance on their Suffrage; and in what manner the Publick is endanger'd by the falſe Repreſentations which theſe deſigning and malicious People make of the great Stocks of Goods pretended to be in *London*, and of the incredible quantities of all ſorts, which theſe Fortune Tellers prognoſticate will be ſhower'd down upon us from the North; and thereupon they pretend to foretel the inevitable Deſtruction which is to overflow the fair Merchant, in caſe Goods be allow'd to be brought Duty free from *Scotland*; whereas upon ſearch all theſe Pretences vaniſh, there are no ſuch Perſons in particular, nor can one be produced of the many thouſands of Families that are ſo boldly aſſerted to be in danger of Ruin, and their viſionary Fleet of 150 tall Ships which they aſſerted upon their Honour, were parted from *Rotterdam* bound to *Scotland*, are reduc'd to the Diminutive number of 42; whereof the greateſt part are ſmall Barks, now arriv'd in the Common Courſe of their Trade.

Give

Give me leave therefore, my Noble Lord, to recommend the Preſervation of this Treaty of Union as an ineſtimable Bleſſing, and of the laſt Conſequence to *Great-Britain:* And that your Lordſhip may long enjoy the happy Fruits thereof, ſhall be the conſtant and ſincere Deſire of,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient,

and Faithful humble Servant.